



Minnesota Ag News – Farm Labor

USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office
P.O. Box 7068 – St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 201-6030 · (651) 201-6479 FAX
Email: nass-mn@nass.usda.gov - Homepage: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

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Hired Workers Down 16 Percent in Lake Region; Wage Up 6 Cents from One Year Ago

Lake Region: There were 64,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of July 11-17, 2010, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$11.10 per hour during the July 2010 survey week, up 6 cents from July 2009. The number of hours worked averaged 34.4 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 34.6 hours in July 2009. In Minnesota, part of the Lake Region, there were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork during the week, compared to 5.5 days during the 2009 reference week. Weekly temperatures were nearly one degree above normal statewide and severe thunderstorms were reported in parts of the state.

United States: There were 1,244,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2010, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 894,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 350,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.82 per hour during the July 2010 reference week, up 16 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.12 per hour, up 8 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$10.19 per hour compared with \$10.05 a year earlier.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JULY 2010						
	Lake Region ^{1/}			United States ^{2/}		
	July 12-18 2009	April 11-17 2010	July 11-17 2010	July 12-18 2009	April 11-17 2010	July 11-17 2010
Workers on Farms Hired Workers ^{3/}	1,000 Workers					
	76	62	64	875	737	894
	Hours Per Week					
Hours Worked Hired Workers ^{3/}	34.6	37.4	34.4	39.7	39.8	41.0
	Dollars Per Hour					
Workers By Work Type						
Field	10.55	10.95	11.09	10.04	10.04	10.12
Livestock	10.27	10.18	9.47	10.05	10.30	10.19
Field & Livestock	10.45	10.55	10.45	10.04	10.12	10.14
All Workers ^{3/}	11.04	11.18	11.10	10.66	10.82	10.82

1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.
2/ Excludes Alaska.
3/ Excludes agricultural service workers.